2. अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति के आवेदक।

3. भूतपूर्व सैनिक और युद्ध में शहीद हुए सैनिकों की विधवाएं।

4. दूरसंचार विभाग के सेवानिवृत्त कर्मचारी अथवा उनके आश्रित।

5. स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के आश्रित।

6. धर्मार्थ संस्थान/अस्पताल।

(ख) और (ग) हरियाणा में एसटीडी/आईएसडी/पीसीओ के लिए लम्बित पड़े आवेदनों की संख्या 3244 है। इनमें से कुछ अक्तूबर, 1994 से लम्बित हैं।

(घ) एक्सचेंज क्षमता तथा तकनीकी सक्षमता उपलब्ध हो जाने पर लम्बित आवेदनों को 1997-98 तक निपटा दिये जाने की प्रत्याशा है।

Reduction in the Cost of International Telephone Calls

1176. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of international telephone calls is likely to be reduced by about 80% following a pact agreed upon by the parties at World Trade Organisation;

(b) whether Government are aware that such a pact will have adverse effect on Indian Telecommunication System and tariff;

(c) whether some foreign telecommunication companies have indicated their attitude towards Third world markets including India; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) The rates of international telephone calls were not included in India's offer submitted to WTO.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Inter-Communicating of Computers of Bill Collection Centres with Accounts Department

1177. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that internet is using basic infrastructure of Telecommunication;

(b) whether it is also a fact that intercommunicating of the computers between two different places is possible; and

(c) the reasons for not connecting bill collection centres to accounts department and telephone disconnecting department?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Department has no plan of using the Internet for Departmental purposes. However bill collection systems which includes such centres/department are being progressively computerised using in-house infrastructure.

Installation of sorting Machines in Head Post Offices

1178. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to instal sorting machines in each Head Post Office in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the number of sorting machines proposed to be installed in Bihar during 1996-97 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) There is no proposal with the Government for installing sorting machine in each Head Post Office in the country.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply at (a).

(c) Sorting machine having a capacity for sorting about 30,000 letters per hour, can be justified only in offices having about 5 lakhs machinable mail for sorting per day.

None of the Head Post Offices in the country presently justifies use of such machine.

(d) There is no proposal to install sorting machines in Bihar state durng the year 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Waiting List of Telephones in Kerala

1179. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pendency of waiting list of telephone connections is the highest in the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons for the higher pendency and the action Government plan to take to give telephone connections to the applicants at least in a phased manner; and

(c) the State-wise break-up of telephone applications in the waiting list as on 31st December, 1996 in different categories?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for higher pendency are: (i) the growth rate for telephone demand has increased from 11.98% in 1993-94 to 15.3% in 1994-95 and then to 26.6% in 1996-97 and now, for the last ten months (April' 96 to Jan' 97) the growth rate has increased to about 30%.

(ii) Non availability of suitable land, rented buildings, delay in getting power supply, low voltage where power supply is available etc. are also constraints for faster provisioning of telephone connections.

The present waiting list as on 31.1.97 is 6.3 lakhs. The resource allocation and availability of other infrastructure are being stepped up during Ninth Five Year Plan to clear the present waiting list in a phased manner by the year 2000.

(c) The details of telephone applications in the waiting list as on 31.12.96 are as per Statement below.

Statement

State-wise break-up of telephone applications in the Waiting list as on 31.12.1996.

Sl. No.	Name of State	OYT	N-OYT
1.	Andhra Pradesh	477	2,25,841
2.	Assam	372	28,335
3.	Bihar	81	59,984
4.	Gujarat (including Dadar, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli)	3,034	2,87,767
5.	Haryana	361	1,01,334
6.	Himachal Pradesh	6	44,710
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	867	30,347
8.	Karnataka	2,292	2,20,952
9.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep (UT))	31,250	5,88,927
10.	Madhya Pradesh	71	67,899
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa and Mumbai)	2,708	3,72,561
12.	North-East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura)	32	16,740